Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently amended) A method of obtaining a culture of propagating pancreatic cells that exhibit a CD56 protein as a cell surface marker comprising:

(a) isolating pancreatic cells from a pancreas, seeding the pancreatic cells in a culture vessel, and culturing the cells to induce expression of the CD56 protein;

(b) harvesting the pancreatic cells from the culture vessel and contacting the pancreatic cells with a CD56 binding reagent;

(c) selecting undifferentiated pancreatic cells that specifically bind to the CD56 binding reagent, wherein the undifferentiated pancreatic cells can be expanded in culture; and

(d) separating the selected, undifferentiated pancreatic cells from pancreatic cells that do not bind the CD56 binding reagent to obtain the culture of propagating pancreatic cells that exhibit the CD56 protein as a cell surface marker.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the CD56 binding reagent is labeled.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the step of selecting is done by fluorescence activated cell sorting.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the CD56 binding reagent is an antibody that specifically binds to the CD56 protein.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the CD56 binding reagent is an antibody or lectin that specifically binds to an oligosaccharide linked to the CD56 protein.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the CD56 binding reagent is a ligand of the CD56 protein.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of soluble CD56, heparin, and heparin sulfate.

15. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the pancreas is from a human.

16. (Original) The method of claim 6 which further comprises propagating the cells of step (d) and differentiating the cells into an aggregate of insulin producing cells.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the step of differentiating the cells comprises culturing the cells on plates coated with collagen IV.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the step of differentiating the cells comprises culturing the cells in a media comprising a differentiation factor.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the differentiation factor is selected from the group consisting of hepatocyte growth factor, keratinocyte growth factor, and exendin-4.

20. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the differentiation factor is hepatocyte growth factor.

21. (Currently amended) A method of producing an aggregate of insulin producing pancreatic cells comprising the steps of :

(a) isolating pancreatic cells from a pancreas, seeding the pancreatic cells in a culture vessel, and culturing the cells to induce expression of the CD56 protein;

(b) harvesting the pancreatic cells from the culture vessel and contacting the pancreatic cells with a CD56 binding reagent;

(c) selecting undifferentiated pancreatic cells that specifically bind to the CD56 binding reagent, wherein the undifferentiated pancreatic cells can be expanded in culture; and

(d) separating the selected, undifferentiated pancreatic cells from pancreatic cells that do not bind the CD56 binding reagent to obtain the culture of propagating pancreatic cells that exhibit the CD56 protein as a cell surface marker; and

(e) differentiating the propagating pancreatic cell culture into an aggregate of insulin producing pancreatic cells.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the CD56 binding reagent is labeled.

23. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the step of selecting is done by fluorescence activated cell sorting.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the CD56 binding reagent is an antibody that specifically binds to the CD56 protein.

26. (Currently amended) The method of claim 25, wherein the CD56 binding reagent is an antibody or lectin that specifically binds to an oligosaccharide linked to the CD56 protein.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the CD56 binding reagent is a ligand of the CD56 protein.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of soluble CD56, heparin, and heparin sulfate.

30. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the pancreas is from a human.

31. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the step of differentiating the cells comprises culturing the cells on plates coated with collagen IV.

32. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the step of differentiating the cells comprises culturing the cells in a media comprising a differentiation factor.

33. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the differentiation factor is selected from the group consisting of hepatocyte growth factor, keratinocyte growth factor, and exendin-4.

34. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the differentiation factor is hepatocyte growth factor.

35-55. (Cancelled)